Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PHO076686 California

COUNTY:

Siskiyou

DATE

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE (Type all entries - complete applicable sections) SEP 2 0 1973 1. NAME Captain Jack's Stronghold AND/OR HISTORIC: Captain Jack's Stronghold LOCATION ulekake vie CITY OR TOWN: + Wella for <u>Beds National Monument</u> COUNTY: CODE CODE California Siskiyou 3. CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY **ACCESSIBLE** OWNERSHIP STATUS (Check One) TO THE PUBLIC Yes: X District ▼ Public Public Acquisition: Building Occupied Restricted ☐ In Process Private ☐ Site Structure ☑ Unoccupied ▼ Unrestricted ☐ Both Being Considered Object Preservation work ☐ No in progress PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) Agricultural ▼ Government X Park Comments ☐ Transportation Commercial Industrial Private Residence Other (Specify) ☐ Military Educational Religious Entertainment Museum ☐ Scientific OWNER OF PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME: United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service STREET AND NUMBER: Interior Building CITY OR TOWN: STATE: 001 District of Columbia Washington 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Lava Beds National Monument STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 867 CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE Tule Lake California 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE OF SURVEY: None Boca181 DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: NPS TIONAL USE STREET AND NUMBER: ONLY CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

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7.	DESCRIPTION									
		(Check One)								
	CONDITION	X Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Det	eri orated	Ruins	Unexposed		
ı	CONDITION		(Check Or	1e)			(Che	ck One)		
		∑ Alte	red	☐ Unaltered			☐ Moved	Original Site		
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Captain Jack's Stronghold is a formation of incredibly twisted and contorted lava flow on the south shore of former Tule Lake. Here, in 1872-73, the Modoc Indians established a stronghold wherein they held out against the U. S. Army for over five months. The Indians made use of the rock formations, the cracks in the frozen lava, and the natural caves, all of which lent themselves admirably to defensive purposes. In addition the Modocs threw up breastworks and small fortifications of loose rocks.

The Army made two major attacks on the Stronghold, the troops erecting their own hasty fortifications of loose rock on each occasion. After the troops finally occupied the Stronghold, they erected still more "forts" in case of a Modoc counterattack.

The area has not yet been adequately mapped, but approximately 130 fortifications have been marked. Undoubtedly many more exist, both to the east and west of the center of the Modoc defense -- the directions from which the army troops attacked. Other features identifiable today include the cave in which Captain Jack's family is said to have lived, the Modoc "War Dance" Circle, the Modoc Council Ground, the Modoc cattle corral, and their horse corral. A modern road has been built between the Stronghold and the former lake bed.

Boundary:

The boundary lines are believed to be large enough to include all the known and possible fortifications in the area. The historic area is primarily south and east of the road. Several house sites (pre-Modoc War) lie north of the road, between it and the former lake bed. Archeologists have excavated these. The east boundary is 2,500 feet from the center of Modoc defense, the west is 3,500 feet, the north is 1,500 feet at maximum, and the south is 2,500 feet from the center.

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AUG 8 1973
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IGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	17th Century	X 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) 1877	13	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	☐ Education	☐ Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
₩ Historic	ndustry	losophy	
Agriculture	Invention	Science	
Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
Art Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	X Militory	Theater	
Conservation	☐ Music	Transportation	
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE		1.1	11 1 67.

At Captain Jack's Stronghold approximately 70 Modoc men held out for 5-1/2 months against a much larger body of U. S. soldiers and Oregon and California volunteers. The first attack on the Stronghold, on January 17, 1873, was made by 300 troops; the second attack on April 15-17, 1873, was made by 650. In the first instance the Modocs successfully repulsed the attack; in the second assault, they withdrew successfully from the Stronghold after inflicting severe casualties on the troops.

The Stronghold symbolized the Modoc War in that here the men of the tribe succeeded in standing off far superior numbers of their attackers. Here they made their last major stand as a tribe. The war crushed the spirit and the body of the Modoc, but at the Stronghold, for a moment of glory, a people successfully defended themselves and their history. The site is of national significance.



Date

Date May 10, 1973

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